

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (canceled)

1 Claim 2 (currently amended): An image sensing apparatus  
2 having a distance measuring unit, comprising:  
3 an image sensing element to form an object image  
4 which enters via a photographing optical system;  
5 a distance measuring unit to measure distances to a  
6 plurality of points within a photographing frame using an  
7 optical path different from an optical path of  
8 photographing optical system;  
9 a determination unit to determine a relationship  
10 between a distance measuring result of the distance  
11 measuring unit and a drive amount of the photographing  
12 optical system, on the basis of the distance measuring  
13 result upon measuring a distance to a first point of the  
14 plurality of points by the distance measuring unit and a  
15 change in contrast of the object image formed at a  
16 position corresponding to the first point on the image  
17 sensing element when a focal point position of the  
18 photographing optical system has changed; and  
19 a control unit to control the focal point position  
20 of the photographing optical system, on the basis of a  
21 distance measuring result of the distance measuring unit  
22 at a second point of the plurality of points, which is  
23 different from the first point and the relationship  
24 determined by the determination unit  
25 ~~The image sensing apparatus according to claim 1,~~  
26 wherein the distance measuring unit comprises:

27           a distance calculation unit to calculate distances  
28   to objects present at the plurality of points by  
29   detecting image signals of the objects present at the  
30   plurality of points; and  
31           a setting unit to set a highest-contrast point of  
32   plurality of points as the first point, and to set a  
33   point corresponding to the nearest distance to the object  
34   calculated by the distance calculation unit as the second  
35   point.

1   Claim 3 (currently amended): The image sensing apparatus  
2   according to claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the distance measuring  
3   unit comprises a principal object detection unit to  
4   detect a location of a principal object from the  
5   plurality of points, and  
6           the determination unit comprises a setting unit to  
7   set a point where the principal object is present as the  
8   second point.

1   Claim 4 (original): The image sensing apparatus  
2   according to claim 3, wherein the principal object  
3   detection unit detects a point, at which the distance  
4   measuring result indicates a nearest distance, of the  
5   plurality of points as the point where the principal  
6   object is present.

1   Claim 5 (currently amended): The image sensing apparatus  
2   according to claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the distance measuring  
3   unit measures distances to objects present at the  
4   plurality of points by a passive or active method.

1 Claim 6 (currently amended): The image sensing apparatus  
2 according to claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the distance measuring  
3 unit comprises a principal object detection unit to  
4 detect a principal object on the basis of the distance  
5 measuring result, and the determination unit comprises a  
6 setting unit to set, as the first point, a point  
7 corresponding to a distance near a current focal point  
8 position of a photographing lens of the distance  
9 measuring results at the plurality of points, and to set  
10 a point where the principal object is present as the  
11 second point.

Claims 7-20 (canceled)